

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/088,025

Examiner

Russell Kallis

Applicant(s)

REINDL ET AL.

Art Unit

1638

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/02/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 19,25,28,33,34,37,38 and 49.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 12/19/2006.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/02/2006 has been entered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Roberte Makowski on 12/19/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 20, 24, 26-27, 29-32, 35-36, 39 and 41-48 have been cancelled.

In the claims:

19. (currently amended) A method for increasing the total free amino acid content of a plant or transformed progeny thereof, comprising;

transforming a [growing a stably transformed, transgenic plant cell, plant tissue,] plant [or progeny thereof comprising an ATP/ADP translocator gene] with a plant transformation vector comprising an isolated polynucleotide encoding a plastidial ATP/ADP translocator,

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[under conditions wherein said ATP/ADP translocator is overexpressed and the content of one or more essential amino acid of said plant cell, plant tissue or plant or progeny thereof is increased relative to a non-transformed plant cell, plant tissue or plant; and using said transformed plant or progeny thereof as a useful plant or fodder plant having an increased amino acid content]

determining the free amino acid content of the transformed plant compared to an untransformed control plant and selecting for an increase in the free amino acid content;
wherein the total free amino acid content is increased compared to a untransformed control plant.

In claim 25, line 1, delete "ATP/ADP translocator gene" and insert --vector--.

In claim 28, line 1, delete "ATP/ADP translocator gene" and insert --vector--.

34. (currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the amino acids are one or more essential amino acids [acid(s) is(are) selected from the group consisting of lysine, methionine, threonine, valine, tryptophan, histidine, isoleucine, and leucine, or combinations thereof].

In claim 37, line 1, change "claim 36" to --claim 19--.

In claim 37, line 2, before "regulatory" add --operably linked--.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 19, 25, 28, 33-34, 37-38, and 49 are deemed free of the prior art given the failure of the prior art to teach or reasonably suggest a method of increasing total free amino acid content in a plant comprising transformation with a polynucleotide encoding a plastidial ADP/ATP translocator, determining the free amino acid content and selecting for an increase in the total free amino acid content.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Russell Kallis whose telephone number is (571) 272-0798. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anne Marie Grunberg can be reached on (571) 272-0975. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Russell Kallis Ph.D.
December 19, 2006

RUSSELL P. KALLIS, PH.D.
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Russell Kallis